

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-21 are pending in the present application. Claim 3 has been cancelled herein. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended herein.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

A. ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has found claim 3-6 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As presented below, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 21 to include the feature of allowed claim 3. Therefore, claims 1, 2, and 4-21 should now be allowable, and allowance is respectfully solicited.

B. DRAWINGS

The Office Action does not indicate whether the formal drawings filed on July 25, 2001 are acceptable, as requested in the Response filed on March 4, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to do so again.

C. PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

The Office Action does not acknowledge the claim to priority and does not indicate whether the priority document submitted on September 11, 2001 has

been received, as requested in the Response filed on March 4, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to do so.

D. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on June 1, 2004, after the mailing date of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests a copy of the PTO Form 1449 submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement with each reference listed therein initialed by the Examiner.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 2 and 7-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,874,964 (Gille) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,968,126 (Ekstrom).

As presented above, independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended herein to incorporate the features of allowed claim 3. Therefore, claims 1, 2 and 7-21 should now be allowable, and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits allowance of the same. If the Examiner believes that any issues could be resolved by a telephone

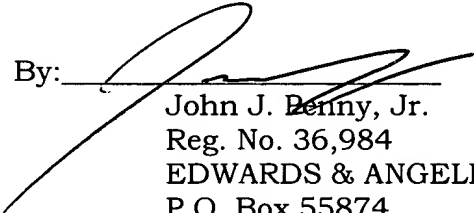
conference, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 20, 2004

By: _____



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